THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (e) During the financial year 2001-2002, Rs.5,10,73,200 was allocated under the budget head 'PRINTING & BINDING' by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, out of which, an expenditure of Rs. 24,58,917 was incurred on printing of challan forms.

The number of challan forms issued to depositors varies from year to year basis. During the financial year 2001-2002, 26,67,831 challan forms were issued to the depositors and 24,64,957 challan forms were received during the financial year 2001-2002.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) supplies challan forms to the depositor free of cost and no complaint has been received in this regard.

Regional security pact

*376. SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the new regional security pact signed between China, Russia and post-Soviet Central Asian States it has been decided to fight terrorism and create an arch of stability across Eurasia;

(b) if so, whether these countries have asked Pakistan to put an end to terrorist activities coming from its territory and directed towards India;

(c) whether the new Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) unites China, Russia, Kazakhstan and others are setting up a single security organization; and

(d) if so, whether this has been welcomed by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, consisting of Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Krygyzstan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, is said to have been signed at a Summit in St. Petersburg on 6th—7th June, 2002. It aims to deepen multilateral cooperation and to make contribution to strengthening peace, ensuring security and stability in the region under conditions of political multipolarity, economic and information globalization;

(b) The SCO member states called upon India and Pakistan to restart the political dialogue with a view to removing tensions and developing cooperation between the two countries.

(c) The SCO member states have reportedly entered into an agreement on setting up the regional anti- terrorist structure.

(d) India has followed with interest the development of SCO. We have also noted SCO's deire to contribute to security and stability in the region.

Construction of Godowns in Madhya Pradesh

*377. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be plesed to state:

(a) the amount allocated/released/spent for construction of godowns and warehouses to Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, alongwith the number of godowns constructed/ under construction;

(b) the details of the cases where Central funds were misused/ diverted;

(c) whether any investigation in this regard has been made, if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the responsibility, if any, fixed and the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Construction of godowns", an amount of Rs.321.368 lakhs was sanctioned to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 2001-02. However, the amount actually released was Rs. 257.166 lakhs after adjusting Rs. 64.202 lakhs, which was pending recovery from the State Government on account of financial assistance sanctioned during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. The amount spent by the State Government so far is Rs. 142.85 lakhs. 3 (three) godowns have already been constructed while 13 (thirteen) godowns are under construction. No assistance under the said Scheme was released in favour of the State Government during 1999-2000 and 2000-01.